

BRIEFLY

Liked this response by Bill Cosby on his kids' response to his current book "Fatherhood": "The kids? They'll write their own book later. But they'd better wait for me to die, because I can come up with a book called CHILDREN DEAREST." . . . Frank Sinatra has been signed to star in the musical version of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, to be filmed in the South of France next year. I presume he won't be playing the young one.

Sean Penn and Madonna, the current husband and wife team who co-star in SHANGHAI SURPRISE, are getting together yet again to remake the Israeli filmmaker Yaki Yosha's DEAD END STREET, with Leo Penn directing his son and daughter-in-law. Sam Waterston, so brilliant in THE KILLING FIELDS is to go to Thailand again to star in the movie version of Joseph Conrad's VICTORY, to be filmed as DEVIL'S PARADISE. Kirk Douglas' other son, Peter, will write, produce and direct TIGER'S TALE, to star Ann-Margret.

Whoopi Goldberg, star of Vestron's WHOOP! GOLDBERG LIVE had a freak accident recently when she tore ligaments in her leg trying to stop her car running down a steep driveway. The accident stopped work on Warner Bros' BURGLARS. . . . Would like to have been a fly on the wall when Tony Curtis was dropped from his proposed new tv series SPIES, which he was hoping would rocket him back to stardom. CBS, the producers, dropped him after filming the pilot because, they said, they liked the series idea but thought poor old Tony was boring and stiff. He's been replaced by George Hamilton. Fancy being thought of as being more boring and stiff than Hamilton.

If you watch Showcase's excellent PERRY MASON: THE CASE OF THE NOTORIOUS NUN, you can't help also notice how fat Raymond Burr has got. Burr must have noticed it himself, also, for he's now on a vegetables and fish diet (he grows his own vegies) and is reported to have already lost more than 25lb.

Older Poms will be saddened to hear of the death of Ted Moul, a big TV personality in the UK, appearing on many quiz shows, making an appearance in Thorn EMI's BULLSHOT, and also having a continuing character role in the radio serial THE ARCHERS. Ted, 60, was found dead on his 300-acre farm near Derby, of what police said was a self-inflicted shotgun wound. A family spokesman said he had been depressed recently by health and financial problems.

Young Star's Vampire Lust!

When Jim Carrey was young, his fantasy was to be seduced by a female vampire. "I used to have a lot of monster models, and every once in while - when nobody was looking - I'd take the Vampirella model and rub it until it was real shiny," he admitted. "It was the only one with no paint left on it."

Fortunately for the lad with a vampire fetish, he is also a very talented actor, as you can see in 7 Keys' ONCE BITTEN, one of the funniest teen comedies of the year.

There are very few people who can act in front of a camera without a drop of self-consciousness, but Jim Carrey is one of them - according to ONCE BITTEN's director, Howard Storm.

As Mark Kendall, Jim appears in his first major movie after a phenomenal two-year period which saw him rise from Canada's top comic star, to a leading role in an American TV series, and finally to extensive touring in some of the country's top venues.

Jim was born in Newmarket, Canada, near Toronto, and showed an early talent for mime in Grade Two. "Until then I was just like every other kid," said Jim recently. "Suddenly, in the middle of music class, I started pretending to play the violin by mimicking the instrument and the teacher caught me and told me to do it in front of the class. So I did. I stood up and did this weird Three Stooges kind of dance, and the kids went nuts."

His first ambition was to be a vet, "but then I realised that I'd have to put dogs and cats to sleep, and I couldn't take the responsibility, so I decided I'd be a comedian instead," said Jim.

A talented cartoonist, Jim went on to win a few art exhibitions in Canada, and he also explored

writing, which did have certain drawbacks. "I used to write poetry all the time," he said, "till I found that if you write a lot of poetry, breathing becomes nothing more than ammunition for a sigh."

His professional debut as a comic was at a club called the Hayloft in Scarborough, near Toronto.

"I did it for about 20 bucks, but my act consisted of just doing somebody's entire comedy album. I did Don Knotts Meets the Roving Reporter. I remember."

He soon started writing his own material and became a regular at better clubs throughout Toronto, until his life changed forever when a critic from The Toronto Star gave him a rave review which took up the full front page of the entertainment section plus a huge picture of Jim.

"I couldn't believe it. And after that, things just snowballed."

Hollywood beckoned and, after a few visits, Jim settled in Los Angeles. Four months later he was cast as the lead of the NBC series THE DUCK FACTORY. Before long Jim was showing off his comedic skills on Johnny Carson's TONIGHT SHOW, and toured with Rodney Dangerfield, Sheena Easton, Andy Williams, Herb Alpert and others.

He made his movie debut with a small, but notable role, in Richard Lester's FINDERS KEEPERS (CBS Fox).

ONCE BITTEN, however, was to be the movie which allowed Jim to exhibit his talent in a role to which he could identify, thanks to that early fetish over vampires.

"All I can say is that if this was ever going to happen - what happens to Mark in ONCE BITTEN - it would happen to me!"

